

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-13, 17-27, and 31-54 are pending. Claims 6-8, 18 and 32 have been amended, and claims 1, 14-16 and 28-30 have been cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection of Claims 1, 6-8, 28-30 and 32 Under § 102(e)

Claims 1, 6-8, 28-30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,431,390 (Waller).

To further expedite the allowance of the present application, claims 1 and 28-30 have been cancelled, claims 6-8 have been amended to depend from claim 2 (which has been allowed), and claim 32 has been amended to depend from claim 31 (which has been allowed). Thus, the present rejection has been rendered moot. The applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

2. Rejection of Claims 14-16 Under § 102(b)

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,765,639 (Bryant).

To further expedite the allowance of the present application, claims 14-16 have been cancelled, thus rendering the present rejection moot. The applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

3. Objection to Claims 18-19 and 24-27

Claims 18-19 and 24-27 stand objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten into independent form. To overcome this objection, claim 18 has been amended into independent form. Claims 19 and 24-27 all depend from claim 18.

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For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims are in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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